

One organization, more than any other, has worked to ensure that Connecticut's children are taught by the finest teachers in the country, and that organization is the Connecticut Education Association (CEA).

The CEA is a membership organization that represents nearly 30,000 elementary and secondary public school teachers in our state. Through the years, the CEA has consistently promoted the value of public education, encouraged public awareness of the resources needed to provide quality education, and emphasized the importance of the teacher in the education process.

This is a significant year for the CEA: it celebrates its 150th anniversary. Over the past century and a half, the Association has been a consistent champion of children, teachers, and public education, and today, its voice on education issues is as strong as ever. There is no job more important than teaching our children, and I would like to thank and congratulate the Connecticut Education Association for a job well done. I wish them all the best as they celebrate this anniversary and continued success in the future.●

#### FINANCIAL SERVICES ACT OF 1998

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, today Senator SARBANES, the distinguished Ranking Member on the Senate Banking Committee, and I have announced that we will hold hearings on June 17th to begin the process of Senate consideration of the Financial Services Act of 1998, recently passed by the House of Representatives.

America is the financial leader of the world, and New York is the capital. But we cannot remain complacent. We must recognize that the world is changing and global competition is tougher than ever. We must meet this change head on. If we are to remain competitive and maintain our pre-eminent position in the marketplace, we must provide a climate that allows our financial system to be as efficient, and competitive as possible.

Mr. President, simply put, financial modernization will provide consumers with more choices. Financial institutions will be able to provide even more diverse services. Insurance companies, securities firms, brokerage houses, local banks and other institutions will be allowed to compete fairly with one another. But we must remember that while expanding the freedom of every American to make their financial choices, we must not sacrifice the safety and soundness or place the taxpayers at risk.

The issues surrounding financial modernization have in the past proven to be contentious. Our hearing next month will allow an open and frank dialogue with the Administration, industry groups and consumers.●

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLA CATHER

● Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, writer Willa Cather fashioned from her experi-

ences uncommon stories of the character of Nebraska's people and landscapes. It is my pleasure to pay tribute to Cather because, like many Nebraskans, her writing continues to inspire me.

This year, we celebrate three major anniversaries in Cather's life. Seventy-five years ago, Cather won the Pulitzer Prize for "One of Ours." One of her best known novels, "My Antonia," will have its 80th anniversary on September 21st. Finally, December 7th marks the 125th anniversary of her birth.

Cather's writings illustrate a Nebraska of stark landscapes, epic frontiers, and mysterious grandeur. Her characters are often placed in a Nebraska panorama to which Cather gave breathtaking expression. Shortly after moving from the east to Nebraska at the age of nine, Cather realized that that shaggy grass country had gripped me with a passion I have never been able to shake. It has been the happiness and the curse of my life."

For Cather in "My Antonia," Nebraska is raw and vast, the material out of which countries are made. . . naked as the back of your hand." Out of the passion she felt for Nebraska's materials, Cather wrote with unparalleled sensitivity about the soil, trees, and wildflowers of the landscape. In The "Song of the Lark," the cottonwoods are the light-reflecting, wind-loving trees of the desert, whose roots are always seeking water and whose leaves are always talking about it, making the sound of rain."

The inhabitants of the land are connected to and determined by this landscape. Thus, in many of Cather's novels, the character is a pioneer, whether literally or as artist, one breaking new ground, finding his or her own path, creating his or her own landscape. In the hands of Cather's sparse and evocative prose, questions of the pioneering self shaped by experience and tested by difficulty indicate Cather's commitment through her characters to integrity.

Readers continue to feel the special relationship between the wonder of Nebraska and the dignity of its people through Cather's well known novels "O Pioneers, My Antonia, One Of Ours," and "Death Comes for the Archbishop," as well as her poetry and other stories. I invite you to join me in honoring Willa Cather on the 75th anniversary of her Pulitzer Prize, the 80th anniversary of "My Antonia," and in memory of her 125th birthday.

In "The Wild Land," Cather writes, The history of every country begins in the heart of a man or a woman." Thanks to Cather's artistry, we continue to be moved by the written recordings of Nebraska's history.●

#### SPACE DAY

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of "Space Day" to recognize the accomplishments and achievements we have made in the

United States over the last quarter of the century in space-related activities.

The space industry has rapidly evolved from public sector dominance to private sector innovation. Throughout the industry's infancy, the Department of Defense's military operations and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's activities dominated the emerging space frontier. These DOD and NASA initiatives served as catalysts in the commercialization of space. Many advances in technology have resulted, leading to new jobs, industries, and exciting new opportunities for uses of space that we cannot yet imagine.

The growth within the space industry, and the opportunities created have been dramatic. The space industry is a major contributor to our economy, and has spurred technological advances over the past 20 plus years. In 1996, total industry revenues from the commercial sector exceeded those from the government sector for the first time ever. Revenues from the space industry are currently running at approximately \$85 billion annually, and are projected to increase to approximately \$121 billion by the year 2000.

Although participation in space initiatives has been and continues to be capital intensive, this arena is fertile ground for smaller entrepreneurs and innovative startups. One of the key factors has been the huge market for satellite launches. The demand for telecommunications services and the distribution of television and cable programming caused the satellite capacity to expand. This industry is continuously evolving to include a host of new satellite-based services including worldwide mobile telephony, and infrastructure for the television industry. Through continued Federal investment in space ventures, we can also see other emerging applications such as distance learning, telemedicine, and the exploration of microgravity conditions of materials in a clean space environment on the International Space Station.

Transferrable technologies—"spin-offs"—from government space initiatives are now being used in various commercial applications. For example, as a result of tests aimed at improving the performance of NASA's Space Shuttle, the Boeing Company was able to hone its design of the Boeing 777 aircraft at NASA's facilities. Several NASA innovations were instrumental in the development of that aircraft, including wind tunnel tests to confirm the structural integrity, use of lightweight composite structures for increased fuel efficiency and range, and the use of computer modeling to conduct advanced computer-based aerodynamic analysis. The is the largest twin engine jet manufactured today. Other such spinoffs include fire retardant materials used in space flight suits now being used for fire fighters and automotive insulation for race car drivers, and various sensors that monitor radioactive materials and environmental control, to cite just a few.